



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2006



Where Quality Is A Lifestyle

FAYETTE COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2006

Prepared by

County Finance Office



Where Quality Is A Lifestyle

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

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CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR
EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

LISTING OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Fayette County, Georgia

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Where Quality Is A Lifestyle

December 15, 2006

Honorable Greg Dunn, Chairman,
Members of the Board of Commissioners
and the Citizens of Fayette County, Georgia

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of Fayette County, Georgia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, is hereby submitted as mandated by both Local ordinances and State statutes. These ordinances and statutes require that Fayette County, Georgia issue a report on its financial position and activity on an annual basis, and this report is to be audited by an independent firm of certified public accountants. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data, and the completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with management. To the best of our knowledge and belief, the enclosed data is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the various funds, account groups, and component units of Fayette County, Georgia. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the County financial activities have been included.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is presented in three sections: introductory, financial, and statistical. The introductory section includes this letter of transmittal, a list of Fayette County's principal officials, department directors and elected officials, and an organizational chart. The financial section includes the management's discussion and analysis, basic financial, combining and individual funds financial statements and schedules, as well as the independent auditor's report on these financial statements and schedules. The statistical section includes selected financial and demographic information, generally presented on a multi-year basis.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with the MD&A section.

In accordance with certain provisions contained in the 1996 amendments to the Single Audit Act, the County is required to undergo an annual single audit report on federal programs activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. The dollar threshold of applicability requiring a single audit is \$500,000 of which the County's program expenditures did meet. Information related to the single audit, including a report on compliance and on internal control over financial reporting is included in a separately issued single audit report.

Reporting Entity

The financial reporting entity (Fayette County) includes all the funds of the primary government, as well as all of its component units. Component units are legally separate entities for which the primary government is financially accountable. Blended component units, although legally separate entities, are, in substance, part of the primary government's operations and included as part of the primary government. The Fayette County Public Facilities Authority (PFA) is included as a blended component unit.

Discretely presented component units are reported as a separate column in the combined financial statements to emphasize that they are legally separate from the primary government and to differentiate their financial position, results of operations and cash flows from the primary government. The Fayette County Development Authority and the Fayette County Department of Public Health are reported as discretely presented component units.

The County provides a full range of services to its estimated 103,700 citizens. Some of the services which are available to at least a portion of those residents include police and fire protection; emergency medical services; court systems; library services; the construction and maintenance of highways, streets and infrastructure; fleet maintenance; buildings and grounds maintenance; tax assessment and collection; planning and zoning; building permitting and inspections; recreational activities and cultural events; and inherent administrative support services.

The County also operates a potable water distribution system and a solid waste management system, which are shown as Enterprise Funds in this report. The Water System was established in 1965 and serves approximately 26,935 customers in the unincorporated areas of the County and through the County owned distribution systems in the City of Peachtree City and the Towns of Tyrone and Woolsey. The Water System also wholesales water to the City of Fayetteville and the Town of Brooks pursuant to wholesale water contracts, which expire in 2034 and 2024, respectively.

The Fayette County Board of Education and the Fayette County Department of Family and Children Services are not included as a part of the County's reporting entity because their operations do not meet the potential component unit inclusion criteria set forth in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14, The Reporting Entity. The principal reasons for their exclusion are that they have their own governing boards, prepare their own budgets, and are financially independent.

Government Structure, Local Economic Condition and Outlook

Fayette County, which was established in 1821, is a body corporate and politic organized and existing under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Georgia. Encompassing only about 199 square miles, it is one of the smaller counties in the State in terms of area. Fayette County is geographically located in the northwestern part of Georgia about 15 miles south of the city limits of Atlanta and is considered an integral part of the Metro Atlanta area.

The governing authority of Fayette County is a Board of Commissioners consisting of five elected members. The commissioners serve on a part-time basis and are elected to staggered terms of four years. While all five commissioners are elected at large, three must come from the different road districts within the County. At their first meeting each calendar year, the Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman are selected by the Board. In their policy making capacity, the Board of Commissioners is authorized to levy taxes; direct and control all property of the County; establish, alter, or abolish roads and bridges; fill vacancies in County offices unless others are empowered to do so; examine, settle and allow claims against the County; examine and audit the accounts of all officers having the care, management, keeping, collection, or disbursement of money belonging to the County; establish the cost of licenses; and make such rules and regulations as necessary for the protection and preservation of health, safety, welfare, and morals. The Board of Commissioners appoints the County Administrator who serves as the County's chief administrative officer. The County Administrator is responsible for the daily operations of all County functions in accordance with the policies of the Board of Commissioners.

The economic condition and outlook for Fayette County remains positive. The assessment of property in the County has increased 7.41% from \$4,446,671,000 in 2005 to \$4,776,348,000 in 2006. The unemployment rate at June 30, 2006 was 4.3 percent compared to the State average of 5.2 percent.

Collections from sales taxes within Fayette County were strong during fiscal year 2006. The local option sales taxes topped \$10 million for the first time, a 13.2% increase over last year's collections. The special local option sales tax, effective April 1, 2004, for road infrastructure improvements totaled \$16.7 million for Fayette County's 84.5% portion.

Fayette County continues to benefit economically by being an integral part of one of the top growth areas in the United States. The Metropolitan Atlanta region represents one of the nation's primary transportation and distribution centers as well as being a major financial and consumer services leader. Georgia's geographically central location for domestic distribution, excellent surface transportation system, telecommunications infrastructure and proximity to major consumer markets make the State an excellent base for air cargo operations.

The quality and quantity of services provided by the County to its residents are second to none. In Fayette County, one will find one of the highest ranked school systems in Georgia, the lowest crime rate in the Metro-Atlanta area, and an efficient County government with one of the lowest millage rates and service costs per capita in the State. Each of these quality of life factors combine to make the County an extremely attractive place in which to reside.

Accounting and Budgetary Controls

Management of Fayette County is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the County are protected from loss, theft, or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of a control should not

exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

All internal control evaluations occur within the above framework. We believe the County's internal accounting controls adequately safeguard assets and provide reasonable assurance for the proper recording of financial transactions.

The County maintains budgetary controls to ensure compliance with the legal provision of the annual appropriations budget approved by the Board of Commissioners. Statutes of the State of Georgia require the County to operate under an annual balanced budget adopted by resolution. The County Administrator is responsible for preparing the annual budget, which is then submitted to the Board of Commissioners for discussion and adoption.

Activities of the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds are included in the annual appropriations budget. Cash flow budgets are prepared and adopted for both of the Enterprise Funds. Project length financial plans are approved for the construction projects that are reported in the Capital Projects Funds.

The applicable State statutes require that the County not exceed its budget at the department level. The legal level of County budget control (the level at which expenditures may not exceed appropriations) for each legally adopted annual operating budget is at the department level. Administrative budgetary control is maintained internally at an object of expenditure level within the department or function. County Department Heads can authorize the transfer of appropriations among accounts within their department's budget. The Board of Commissioners must approve all other transfers or supplemental appropriations. The County's budget procedures are more fully explained in the accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

The County maintains an encumbrance accounting system as another means of accomplishing budgetary control. Encumbered amounts at year-end are recorded as a reservation of fund balance and carried forward into the ensuing year's budget.

As demonstrated by the statements and schedules included in the financial section of this report, the County continues to meet its responsibility for sound financial management.

Cash Management

Cash temporarily idle during the year was invested in demand deposits, certificates of deposit, U.S. Government securities and repurchase agreements. At June 30, 2006, the County has investments in certificates of deposit, U.S. Government securities, repurchase agreements, and the Georgia Fund 1 State Investment Pool. The County earned interest revenue of \$3,741,522 on all investments of the governmental and proprietary types for the year ended June 30, 2006.

The County's investment policy is to minimize credit and market risks while maintaining a competitive yield on its portfolio. Accordingly, deposits are required to be either insured by federal depository insurance or collateralized. At June 30, 2006, all of the County's depositories provided sufficient and/or proper collateralization of the County's deposits. All other collateral on deposits was held either by the County, its agent, or a financial institution's trust department in the County's name.

Risk Management

Fayette County is self-insured for workers' compensation and employee dental and vision coverage. The Government maintains excess coverage for specific stop loss claims exceeding \$350,000 for public safety and \$300,000 for all other employees for the workers' compensation program. Third party administrators are employed to process claims for the workers' compensation, dental and vision programs.

The County's Human Resource Department monitors all self-funded and fully insured programs to develop programs for accident prevention and claims reduction in all County departments.

Independent Audit

State statutes require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants. The accounting firm of Cherry, Bekaert & Holland LLP was selected by Fayette County to perform the June 30, 2006 audit. This report has been prepared in accordance with those State requirements set forth. The auditors' report on the basic financial statements and the combining and individual funds statements and schedules are included in the financial section of this report.

Reporting Achievements

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Fayette County for its comprehensive annual financial report for the year ended June 30, 2005. The County has received this award for each of the last thirteen years. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, Fayette County published an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current comprehensive annual financial report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

In addition, Fayette County also received the GFOA's Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation for its annual appropriated budget for fiscal year 2006.

Acknowledgments

The preparation of this report on a timely basis could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the various County departments and officials, and in particular, the staff of the Finance Department. Our sincere appreciation is extended to each individual for the contributions made in the preparation of this report.

We would also like to thank the Chairman and members of the Board of Commissioners for their interest and support in planning and conducting the financial operations of the County in a responsible and progressive manner and through whose efforts we have made substantial progress in responding to the extraordinary demands placed upon our community. We believe that the accomplishments that have been identified in this transmittal letter and the accompanying MD&A section clearly indicate that the Board of Commissioners has effectively and efficiently planned and managed the resources that were entrusted to them by the Citizens of the County.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine L. Venice
County Administrator



Mary S. Holland
Chief Financial Officer

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

Fayette County
Georgia

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2005

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Blum".

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Emer".

Executive Director

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA
LISTING OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
June 30, 2006

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gregory M. Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells, Vice Chairman
Herbert E. Frady
Robert Horgan
Peter Pfeifer

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Christine L. Venice

ACTING COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR

Mary S. Holland

COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

Tim Jones

COUNTY ATTORNEY

McNally, Fox & Grant, P.C.

TAX COMMISSIONER

George Wingo

SHERIFF

Randall Johnson

MAGISTRATE COURT JUDGE

Charles R. Floyd, Jr., Chief Magistrate

PROBATE COURT JUDGE

Martha Stephenson

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Sheila Studdard

AUDITORS

Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, L.L.P.

Fayette County, Georgia

Organizational Chart

as of 06/30/2006

